

**EarthMachine.com**

**Available at the Municipal Service Center 870 Hammond St. Mon thru Fri 7am to 3pm.  
Earth Machines are \$40 each paid by check only made out to the Town of Brookline. Call  
(617) 879-4900 for more information.**



### **Guide to Home Composting**

So you've decided to try your hand at Home Composting. Congratulations! Sit back and relax, because composting is an amazingly easy way for you to make a difference. In less than ten minutes a week, you can:

- Reduce the amount of household garbage you generate by 25% or more – that's less tax dollars spent on collection and disposal.
- Create wheelbarrows full of valuable compost to add to your garden, lawn, trees, shrubs and house plants.

## Earth Machine™ Assembly Instructions

### Step 1

Twist and remove the lid.

### Step 2

Place the bottom section on the ground, and set the top section on top of it.

**IMPORTANT:** Make sure that the arrows on the the top and bottom s

Also, the bottom of the top section should sit in the groove on the top of the bottom section.

### Step 3

Check the outside and inside with your hand to ensure the 6 tabs line up with the 6 slots.

### Step 4

□ To ensure the tabs are completely in the slots, push down firmly on the two handles.

### Step 5

□ To confirm that all 6 tabs are in place, turn the unit upside down and make a visual inspection.

### Step 6

□ Slide the harvest door in place, bending slightly if necessary.

### Step 7

Put the lid on by lining up the arrow on the lid with the arrow on the top of the Earth Machine™. Twist the lid to lock it in place.

### Step 8

Once you have determined the location (see next page), you can anchor the Earth Machine™ to the ground using the anchor bolts.

### Where to Put Your Earth Machine™

The most important factor for locating your Earth Machine™ is CONVENIENCE. You will be adding material several times each week, even in winter, so set it up as close to your kitchen as possible.

Some first-time Earth Machine™ users make the mistake of hiding it in the back of the yard, thinking it will smell or attract pests, and then find it inconvenient. The Earth Machine™ handbook will show you how to compost easily and trouble-free, so don't hide your Earth Machine™ – be proud of it!

Once you have chosen your location, just set your Earth Machine™ in the desired location and secure it with the four plastic screw pegs. You are now ready to compost.

**TIP:** It helps to put your Earth Machine™ in a well-drained spot. You can speed things up by cutting out the sod under the Earth Machine™ to invite worms and microbes in and improve drainage.

### Composting Starts In The Kitchen

To keep material from sticking to the bottom and sides of the Kitchen Collector, line it with a sheet of newspaper or paper towel. When you empty the pail into your Earth Machine™ every couple of days, it will slide out cleanly. Give your Kitchen Collector a quick rinse after you empty it and re-line it. The newspaper or paper towel will compost in your Earth Machine™..

### What To Compost

Your Earth Machine™ will work best if it is fed a diet of green (nitrogen-rich) and brown (carbon-rich) materials. Check out the list of kitchen and yard waste “greens” and “browns” that will keep your Earth Machine™ happy.

#### KITCHEN GREENS

Fruit scraps, vegetable scraps  
Houseplant cuttings

Rice & pasta  
Egg shells  
Tea bags

Coffee grounds

#### KITCHEN BROWNS

Coffee filters, stale bread  
Paper napkins & towels

Hair

Dryer lint

#### YARD GREENS

Flowers  
Vegetables  
Plant trimmings  
Hedge clippings  
Grass (small amounts)

#### YARD BROWNS

Leaves  
Straw or hay  
Small twigs/chips  
Dried grass and weeds

### How To Compost

Composting is easy – it happens on its own. However, there are a few things you can do to speed up the composting process. Just follow these four steps.

#### **CHOP**

It helps to chop up larger items like watermelon rinds or corn cobs before putting them in your Kitchen Collector.

#### **EMPTY**

Once your Kitchen Collector is full, take it to your Earth Machine™ and empty it out..

#### **STIR**

Mix the new material into the existing pile using a Compost Turner, pitchfork or other garden tool. This also adds oxygen, a key component to successful composting.

#### **COVER**

Cover your food waste with a handful of old leaves, other dried yard waste or soil. This will add carbon and reduce the chance of odors and fruit flies. Then put the lid back on and let it “cook”.